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UNCLAS BRASILIA 000089

SIPDIS

STATE FOR OES/STC/MBRADECAMP
STATE FOR WHA/BSC/LKUSNITZ
STATE PLEASE PASS TO DHHS/NIH/FIC FOR KEVIN BIALY

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [TBIO](#) [KSCA](#) [OSCI](#) [BR](#)

SUBJECT: INVITATION FROM BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY FOR NIH
TO VISIT BRASILIA FOR DISCUSSIONS ON ISSUES RELATED TO
MEDICAL RESEARCH PROJECTS

REF: EMAIL 12/17/2005 TO KEVIN BIALY

Summary:

1. The Brazilian Foreign Ministry has extended an invitation to Kevin Bialy (and other NIH representatives if desired) to visit Brasilia after January 15, 2005, for face-to-face discussions related to NIH medical research projects. The topics mentioned by the Brazilians were discussion of a speedier system for processing the grants and a way for the Brazilian government to know that the recommendations that accompany their letters of grant acceptance were being considered. Embassy encourages acceptance of the invitation, and would hope a visit could be scheduled in January 2005. End summary.

Background

2. In November 2004, Brazil's Ministry of Foreign Affairs communicated with Embassy Brasilia regarding the possibility of holding discussions with NIH on above-mentioned issues. Embassy Brasilia supported this initiative because, as you know, recent letters of grant acceptance from the Ministry to NIH contained "recommendations" that NIH adhere to provisions of Brazilian law pertaining to rules on research involving human subjects. In an effort to ensure that NIH was aware of all Brazilian rules and regulations in this area, Embassy requested and received a copy of Brazilian Ministry of Health publication "Rules on Research Involving Human Subjects" (English) and forwarded it via FEDEX to Kevin Bialy.

Meeting To Clarify Issues

3. In subsequent discussions with Minister Counselor Vergniaud Elyseu Filho, Chief of the Division of Science and Technology at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Embassy related its desire to have a clearer understanding of the "recommendations" included in the grant acceptance letters. Elyseu Filho explained that recommendations in the acceptance letters are generated either by the Ministry of Health or the National Commission for Ethics in Research. He expressed a willingness to invite representatives from each of these entities to the meeting to clarify this process and other issues.

4. Embassy strongly supports the Brazilian request for NIH to travel to Brasilia, and hopes that it can be scheduled in January. We recommend that because of national holidays, you avoid the period February 2-15, as often Ministry officials are unavailable.

5. We view this meeting as an excellent opportunity to ensure that NIH has access to all rules and regulations governing your activities in Brazil. It will also provide the Brazilians with an opportunity to express to you any concerns they may have.

6. Embassy believes the research funded and conducted in Brazil by NIH with its Brazilian partners is an extremely positive and important component of our bilateral relationship. Judging from the attitude of those we've spoken to at the Ministry, the Brazilians hold this partnership in equally high regard.

7. NIH may reply to this communication either by cable, or email to Brasilia Embassy Science Counselor Patricia Norman at NormanPD@state.gov Tel: 55 61 312-7401. Logistical details can be worked out after your acceptance has been received.

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